NOTES FROM MEETING WITH HANNAH THONET on Sept 15 (Hannah is Gov. Murphy’s Environment and Energy Policy Advisor). Draft 1.1.

* Our questions & later discussions are in red text. Hannah’s discussion is in black text.

This summarizes notes from myself, Jeffrey, Bob, Carol, Lee, Pat
Ahead of the event, the 50x30 team created a long series of questions, such as:

* Where is the governor in getting municipal support (source of majority of GHG emissions); does NJ expect cooperation, or is it a matter of employing both carrot and stick?
* We wrote this letter without understanding the governors plan for municipalities – is the Gov ahead, or behind us?
* What is the Governors plan to achieve 50% GHG reduction, by 2030 from the 2005 baseline.
* How dependent is NJ on Federal Funding, on what NJ can achieve?
* Where are they in the planning cycle

OUR SUMMARY OF MEETING RESULTS in the 30 minutes allotted: The Governor's office is challenged to get municipalities to take (substantive) climate change mitigation actions. Maybe we need town hall with  the governor's climate team and some muni-gov leaders to hear/discuss why towns have issues moving forward.}

HANNAH’s comments on Municipal linkages/responsibilities (to be incorporated into letter to Gov. Murphy):

* Hannah suggested we add points from Pat’s verbal Intro to the meeting.
* Hannah stated everything in the draft letter to Gov. Murphy seemed on point/makes sense and Hannah has no argument with it [Hannah did not offer specific suggestions to change the letter and attachments.]
* There is a tendency to avoid heavy handedness at the top, or maybe waiting from municipalities to propose.
* We need to understand local barriers, because NJ would like to help municipalities.
* Do cities need handholding/help/ education or incentives, or even a mandate from NJ?
* Is Sustainable Jersey untied, or is it being restricted from fully helping municipalities? [ASK RANDALL SOLOMON, SJ ExDirector]
* What are barriers for municipal involvement? – need a list- here are the [top 10] things you can do in 2022 to move the needle. Determine what is the most useful to move forward. {LEE requests linkage of municipality action to NJ state goals}
* HANNAH said we should document barriers in the letter. TEAM ACTION

Hannah: The state has been setting up programs where cities are incented to undertake, but the programs are generally not forced, e.g EV incentives, building codes, etc

Steve and Pat described Green Teams and Sustainable NJ, e.g. Steve stated gold star program is very important to GHG reduction

[**EXECUTIVE ORDER 100**](https://nj.gov/infobank/eo/056murphy/pdf/EO-100.pdf)(1/27/2020 Protecting Against Climate Threats (“PACT”) regulations must be enacted by DEP): (lee); Lee asked about executive order 100, and asked how to follow-up on this; we know that the NJ DEP was given 2 years (Jan 27, 2022) for details on meeting the EMP. That would be 4 months from now, 1/27/2022. what is progress being made? DEP asked to output by 2 year: Jan 27, 2022 - Hannah said GREAT QUESTION – will talk to DEP (Hannah did not seem familiar).

**EMPOWER PETITION TO NJ DEP** (July 21, 2021)

Bob asked Hannah’s take and Governor's office take on the formal Petition from multiple groups to the NJ DEP on how NJ plans to get 50% GHG by 2030 (this petition is referenced in the draft letter to Murphy). Hannah observed there is a 60 day, or 90 day (depending on circumstances, such as Covid) DEP response period and she cannot comment during that time other than to state there is active discussion about it.

**BPU ACTION TO QUICKLY INCREASE RENEWABLE ELECTRICITY.** Bob asked about how the existing 50% electric RPS in 2030, 2031, 2032, and 2033 potentially far short in getting to 100% clean electricity by 2035 in Biden's executive order [i.e. in 2 years!].  Hannah stated good question, and that they are waiting to see what Congress & Biden does  {[this likely means Budget Reconciliation Bill and actions such as the CEPP though these were not discussed in the meeting]. Without being asked, Hannah mentioned the reference to the [BPU] resource consideration study in the draft letter and mentioned discussions are underway regarding how to integrate with the fossil fuel infrastructure of the PJM. [Bob suggests adding the point to the letter that only 6% of PJM electricity is wind/solar renewables at this time].

**THINK THROUGH MUNICIPAL BARRIERS.** All of the letter makes sense. Think thru the municipal barriers. Just because there is a program, why is not being used? Can the green team have time to write the grant. We have the plans/programs but the assistance is not there. There are municipal organizations to allow easy EV chargers. Hannah went on to state that they are looking at stronger Building Codes [SGM assumes Hannah’s reference is likely greater efficiency. The RMI consultant is likely suggesting moving codes toward full electrification- as adopted by California - that municipalities could optionally adopt. ] The question is whether municipalities have an appetite for stronger building codes. Municipalities can adopt stricter building codes on their own- is there an appetite for the cities to do so? Hannah said to provide examples of well-intentioned state initiatives, in order to grasp what could be used to work with the cities. [TEAM ACTION!]

Hannah also thought adding transparency at the municipal level would be helpful - to show progress moving forward. ACTION required.

Jeff pointed out lack of expertise at municipal level - they use consultants. Hannah asked if municipalities can work together under sustainable NJ – perhaps Municipal vehicles, charging, etc.. Steve gave an example: regional RGEA electrical aggregations are encouraged by Sustainable Jersey.

-  Lee advocated state resource pool for municipalities

-  Jeff and Steve asked what happens next.  Steve mentioned we have homework to do, such as updating the letter.

-  As her meeting action, Hannah will talk to colleagues, specifically mentioning BPU contacts, and will contact us if appropriate.

**SUSTAINABLE JERSEY**. Hannah suggested we explore why Sustainable NJ [energy] standards are not being adopted by municipalities and how NJ might help in getting towns to follow them.
ACTION: Get Randy Solomon involved; at minimum, add SustainableJersey to distribution of our letter; arrange meeting to discuss. Attend and incorporate input from Tri-County HUB (details in footnote}

-  Pat mentioned a major part of donations to Sustainable NJ are from utilities, and that NJ Natural Gas might not want to encourage replacement of existing space heating [fossil fuel] with [electrical] means. -  Pat mentioned the funding should come from the state to free up SustainableJersey from fossil fuel pressure. Bob suggested this point be put in the letter [ACTION]

-  Bob observed the NJ-CleanEnergyProgram incentive programs were also transferred to the utilities.  Hannah stated this is intentional because the Clean Energy Act calls for utilities to implement energy efficiency programs.

[possibility] Add details to “Recommendation 1”: Define steps (esp in transportation and building sectors) reqd to achieve 50% GHG reduction by 2030

**FOOTNOTE**: “Tri-County Sustainability” meets Thurs., Sept 30, 7-8:30PM. 50 x30 Team should submit questions in advance [here](file:///E%3A%5Cwebsites%5Cclimate%5C50x30%5Chere). Public invited to join Zoom: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81050338826> join us for a discussion on climate change in the Garden State including both a policy perspective and the role that we as green team members, environmental commissioners, municipal leaders, activists and volunteers can play in ensuring a sustainable future for our region and State. Hear from our all-star panel including **Senator Bob Smith** (Chair, Environment & Energy Committee), **Senator Troy Singleton** (Sponsor of the landmark Environmental Justice law) and **Randy Solomon** (Executive Director, Sustainable Jersey).